

President Harvie Jordan's Appeal to Cotton Growers.

Mr. Clarence H. Poe, Editor, Raleigh, N. C.

My Dear Sir:—I received the several copies of The Progressive Farmer containing my article on the cotton situation, and beg to thank you for them. I have mailed them to different sections of the country. More cotton has been held in the South this year than ever before, and we have done well to maintain prices within half a cent of our minimum price of 10 cents in the face of an unprecedented season for gathering, ginning and marketing. But the price of cotton is too low, and those who are holding all over the South are demanding an advance. I am sending out hundred of the enclosed circular letter all over the South to our official staff in the different States, agricultural clubs, farmers unions, and the press generally. If we can stop selling now for thirty days we will force the bear speculators to cover and break the present strong combination against us, and win out in our determination to be important factors in fixing the price of our great and valuable staple crop. I would thank you for your continued co-operation and valued support of our Association and its objects. With best wishes, I beg to remain,

Yours truly,

HARVIE JORDAN,
President.

Monticello, Ga., Nov. 14, 1904.

To Southern Cotton Producers:—Prompt and definite action on the part of producers and holders of spot cotton all over the cotton belt is absolutely essential at this time to break the present powerful "bear" combinations that are so perfectly organized to depress prices. The open season has permitted the farmers to gather and gin fully 80 per cent of the crop by November 1st, and enough cotton has been rushed upon the markets to largely meet all demands of the speculators. While it is true more of the staple has been held back this year than ever before, the daily receipts at interior markets and ports are still too heavy to force an advance in prices equivalent to the true value of the staple. The producers are to be congratulated for the firm stand they have already taken to market the crop slowly, and that fact alone has prevented the price from falling to eight cents during the month of October. The crop is about gathered, debts generally are paid and it is no longer absolutely necessary to sell the balance of the crop. The ginners report recently issued from the U. S. Census Bureau indicated that up to October 18th, only 6,400,000 bales of cotton had been ginned. This report clearly indicates that this crop will not exceed 11,000,000 bales, if it reaches that figure. The spinners can well afford to pay the producers 12 cents per pound for every bale of American short staple cotton made this season and do a profitable business for the stockholders. The price of yarns has

advanced 3 cents per pound within the past 60 days and an unprecedented demand for cotton goods exists while stocks generally are lower than they have been for the past twenty years. The duty of the producers is plain and simple. They have crowded the markets for the past two months, congesting every facility for handling cotton and playing into the hands of the bear speculators and spinners. The thing to do now is to give the markets and shippers a rest during the next 60 days and allow present stocks of spot cotton to be gotten out of the way. Let the spinners who are living from hand to mouth run short of cotton and force them into the markets as active buyers. Let the bear speculators begin to feel the lash of the bull operators when the latter call for the deliveries of spot cotton which the former will be unable to deliver.

Let every holder of cotton absolutely stop selling and sit down at home and quietly contemplate results. Let each holder determine to put no more cotton on the market until prices advance and never sell a bale on a depressed market.

Port receipts are already falling off, due to the resistance offered by the producers, and if united concert of action is secured all along the line the fight will be whipped and Southern farmers will demonstrate their ability to become important and dominant factors in fixing the price at which their staple shall be sold.

Let county meetings be held all over the belt and strong and active steps be taken to defend this most valuable agricultural produce from the rapacious greed of the selfish speculator. Let every man who still holds a bale of cotton in his possession join in these county, or local meetings, and agitate the importance of this step among his neighbors to the end that success in the near future will be assured. We have held our own well so far, but we can do much better, and easily advance the price from two to three cents by persistently refusing to sell and lightening up present receipts. We fixed our minimum at ten cents for this season and maintained the price within half a cent of that figure through October, the heaviest month. Now let the price be fixed at 12 cents for the remainder of the crop, and the world will accept it at that price, which will mean an additional gain of nearly fifty million dollars.

I will be pleased to have reports of all county meetings and from individual farmers throughout the belt endorsing the above position taken, and guaranteeing their active co-operation. State Vice-Presidents of the Association are urged to push this matter actively in their respective States. Farmers Unions and agricultural clubs generally are earnestly requested to give their valued aid and co-operation to the movement and the daily and weekly press of the South is respectfully requested to use the power and influence of their columns to disseminate this circular letter and give such other aid as they may feel disposed.

A determined stand will bring victory.

Very respectfully,
HARVIE JORDAN,
President Southern Cotton Growers' Protective Association.

An Appeal to the Tobacco Growers of Granville and Adjoining Counties.

Messrs. Editors: There will be a mass meeting of the tobacco farmers of Granville and other counties at Oxford on Monday, the 28th of November, 1904, promptly at 11 o'clock a. m. S. C. Adams, President of the Inter-State Tobacco Growers' Protective Association, will be present and address the meeting, relative to the importance of the tobacco farmers organizing in this Association. Brother Adams has been to this county before, and has distinguished himself as a good speaker, and has done much good in inducing many of our best citizens to partially organize clubs with several members.

We earnestly urge the executive committee in each township as well as every tobacco grower and friend interested, in this and adjoining counties to go to Oxford on day above mentioned and hear Brother Adams's address. He has no axe to grind except what is common and applies to every tobacco grower in the betterment of his and our condition as tobacco growers. We want no failure for want of a crowd. Let everybody come, and let us have a meeting that will enthuse the farmers to immediate action throughout the State.

This Association demands nothing but what is right, just and equitable in the sight of God and man. God is on our side for He is always on the side of justice and against oppression when it strikes the rank and file and includes the poor farmer who is simply exchanging dollars at a loss; costing 10 cents per pound to raise tobacco, everything included (warehouse charges, etc.), delivering his tobacco to the American Tobacco Company at about 7 cents average for Virginia and North Carolina stock. We have to put in side lines in the shape of fruit, poultry, potatoes, cereals, etc., to keep up expenses; not able to hire much labor.

The secular and religious press and professional men may cry prosperity when there is no prosperity with the rank and file of the tobacco growers of Granville.

There is no politics in this organization. All persons of good moral character who grow tobacco and are eighteen years old are eligible to membership. If any person should introduce politics into the organization he is subject to expulsion at once. We antagonize no manufacturer, profession or business whatever; what we want is to get in a position by organization to control the raising, marketing and the price of the raw material at figures reasonably above the cost of production. Is not this right and just? Ought not any reasonable, conscientious man or set of men concede us this right when it conflicts with no other business or occupation?

If the tobacco farmers of Virginia and North Carolina could get a reasonable margin above the cost of production for their tobacco, everybody interested directly or indirectly would be more prosperous and better prepared financially to pay debts and

keep up with this progressive age. Labor would come back to the farms from the towns, and everyone concerned be benefited.

Brethren, get in line and let us organize clubs all over the Bright Belt. In unity there is strength; unorganized, we are bearers of burdens, and hewers of wood. Meet organized capital with our intelligent and business farmers, in a business-like manner, seasoned with cordiality and sociability; ask for a reasonable margin on the price of our tobacco. If not granted, there will be other means already devised which will succeed.

Yours to serve,

M. W. B. VEAZEY,
President of Granville County Tobacco Growers' Association.

WAR ON BAD FERTILIZERS.

Clemson Trustees Wage it—Five Indictments Found in South Carolina and Others to Follow.

Columbia, S. C., Nov. 15.—At its meeting here to-day the board of trustees of Clemson College took up the matter of indictments against a number of fertilizer companies for violation of the new fertilizer law as to guaranteed quality. Many of these goods have been found deficient and a number of indictments have been entered in the courts and still others are to be asked. There were representatives of nine fertilizer concerns before the board asking that five suits be dropped because of alleged defects in the statute, the contention being that the five violations had, for the most part, been technical. The board refused to do this, but it was agreed to continue the present prosecutions until there is a report from the committee, which was appointed from the board to-day, to ask the next Legislature to further construe the new law. Additional indictments are to be entered against the fertilizer concerns as fast as practicable. The request of representatives of several companies under indictment that present prosecutions be not pressed was refused and the board also declined to stop the issuing of other warrants. Additional inspectors were authorized to-day and more chemists were employed to keep up with samples sent in by the inspectors so that the farmers may be able to get what they pay for. The Clemson trustees have the matter in charge, as the fertilizer tax goes to that institution.

We have just been informed that the exhibit of T. W. Wood & Sons, seedsmen, (Richmond, Va.), at the St. Louis World's Fair, has been awarded the grand prize, the highest award made. This high honor for this famous Southern seed house recalls the fact that it also won the gold medal at the Paris Exposition in 1900. We are glad to note this brilliant success on the part of one of our most popular and persistent advertisers.

If you want to do something for God, you need not be disappointed for want of opportunity.